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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,252	LUKACS ET AL.	
	Examiner Sang Nguyen	Art Unit 2877	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/14/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's response to amendment filed on 10/14/04 has been entered. It is noted that the application contains claims 1-30 by the amendment on 10/14/05.

Drawings

The drawings were received on 05/03/05 has been entered. These drawings are approved by examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-30 are allowed.

As to independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails discloses or render obvious an apparatus for fast, quantitative, non-contact topographic investigation of samples comprising all the specific elements with the specific combination including of a structured mask located between said light source and said concave mirror, and an image sensor structured and arranged to receive a beam reflected from the sample and said concave mirror, wherein relative positions of said mask and said sensor to other elements of the apparatus are chosen to provide an essentially sharp image of the mask on the sensor in combination with the rest of the limitation of claim 1.

As to independent claim 23 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails discloses or render obvious a method for fast, quantitative, non-contact topographic investigation of samples comprising all the specific elements with the specific combination including of

directing light through a structured mask onto a concave mirror and receiving a beam reflected from the sample and the concave mirror, and positioning the mask and the sensor in relation to a the mirror and sample to provide an essentially sharp image of the mask on the sensor in combination with the rest of the limitation of claim 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Sang Nguyen whose telephone number (571)-272-2425. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday From 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Gregory J. Toatley, Jr., can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 77. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Nguyen/sn

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FOA

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